



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

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# Media Release



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Chief of Police

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## VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN) ETCHING EVENT

The Tucson Police Department Auto Theft Unit and Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force are hosting a **free Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching event** on **Friday, December 2, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The event will take place at the **SunWest Federal Credit Union at 7725 East Broadway Boulevard**. Citizens are invited to bring their vehicle to the event for this valuable service. Citizens are **encouraged to bring two cans of food for a donation to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona**, although a donation is not required to participate.

VIN etching is a way to mark your vehicle to make it more difficult for an auto thief to resell the vehicle or its parts. VIN etching uses a chemical solution to etch the VIN on all of the windows on your vehicle. This process does not have any adverse effects on the windows, it is almost invisible, and it is permanent.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NCIB) and law enforcement agencies nationwide believe that etching the VIN onto the vehicle's windows provides an important deterrent to auto thieves. Given the option, most car thieves will take a car that is harder to trace, leaving an etched vehicle alone. VIN etching takes as little as ten minutes and may result in reduced insurance premiums.

Auto Theft Unit Detectives have been trained by the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) and will be on hand to etch your VIN using materials supplied by the AATA. They will also provide information regarding other auto theft prevention measures that when used, can help you to avoid becoming a victim. Forms will be available for owners who wish to enroll in the state-sponsored Watch Your Car Program. Below are some additional auto theft prevention tips:

**Do not leave a running vehicle unattended, for example, to warm up on a cold morning**

**Remove your keys from the ignition even if you have an anti-theft device**

**Lock your doors/close your windows**

**Park in well-lit areas when possible**

**Do not leave valuables in plain view**

**Install an audible alarm in your vehicle**

**Use brake/wheel/steering wheel locks, and hardened steering column collars**

**Purchase a smart key**

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.